

ENSEMBLE VISION:

Academic Voices



ABOUT ACADEMIC VOICES

Ensemble Setup:

Academic Voices music is flexible and suitable for any number of voices of any type, and includes soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Usually music will be in three or more parts, and moving between parts is encouraged. Academic Voices is an open access choir, and no audition is required.

Skill Set:

Typically, singers in Academic Voices are keen singers, with some experience of music reading and singing in a group.

Membership Commitment:

Academic Voices members are expected to commit to all rehearsal and performances in the period of time that they are a member, to arrive punctually and prepared for the rehearsal with their sheet music. Where attendance drops below acceptable levels (normally 90%) members may be asked to leave Academic Voices, and membership fees will not be refunded. We strongly encourage members to join for the whole academic year, or at least for a term. Music at Reading will issue the schedule of rehearsals and performances for all Music at Reading Ensembles before the start of the academic year in order that members can plan ahead to accommodate their membership commitments with other activities.

Normally, Academic Voices rehearse in L29 on Thursday evenings in term time, 18.30 – 20.30. Members should arrive punctually. Additional rehearsals will be held on performances dates, to allow for sound check and dress rehearsal at the venue.

Leadership:

Members of Academic Voices are encouraged to develop a reflective attitude towards their singing in order to understand their contribution to the ensemble. Throughout rehearsals and after performances, the Director will encourage members to reflect on their progress and their contribution to the group. Singers will be given opportunities to be section leaders, and may also have solo opportunities depending on repertoire.

Musical Leaders:

In the Spring term, Music at Reading invites members to apply for the Musical Leaders scheme. This is an enrichment programme for advanced performers keen to develop their skills in solo and ensemble performance, and ensemble directing. Musical Leaders are expected to be regular performing members of Music at Reading ensembles. They may choose to take additional leadership roles in their ensemble, such as sectional leader, soloist, and assistant conductor. In Academic Voices, this could include warming up the ensemble, leading musicianship work, running sectional rehearsals, and directing the choir.

Musical leaders will model appropriate behaviours in terms of punctuality, attendance, self-organisation and personal preparation in rehearsals and performance. Being a Musical Leader can contribute towards the University RED awards.

Musicianship:

In rehearsals, musicianship training focuses on developing and refining your voice. The ensemble director will determine musicianship content related to the repertoire played, the broad outline is as follows:

<p>Developing and Refining your Voice</p>	<p>Developing and refining your voice through technical exercises and physical work focused on breathing and posture to develop vocal strength and a range of different vocal tone colours.</p> <p>Developing pitch and tonality awareness through singing with solfa, focusing on effective intonation</p> <p>Understanding how to modify individual vocal sound within the choral sound for effective communication with the audience</p>
<p>Choral co-ordination</p>	<p>Refining your understanding of rhythm notation with a focus on delivering rhythmic feel in the music you're learning to sing</p> <p>Building two and three part hearing through group rhythm, pitch and harmony exercises and games so the individual singer may learn to work in the choral team</p>
<p>Repertoire</p>	<p>Exploring the idiosyncratic stylistic features of the choral repertoire that Academic Voices sing.</p> <p>Learning to sing choral repertoire by heart</p>